Governor of E)elhi, Chief Minister of Delhi SC/ST Commission, Chief Commissioner, Income Tax and Sales Tax and Prime Minister;

(b) If so, what action Director General, ICCR has taken on the basis of these letters;

(c) if no action has been taken, the reasons thereof; and

(d) whether Govemment have investigated into tbe nexus between Balmer Lawrie & Co. and ICCR on the basis of media reports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) Some MPs had written letters in 1997 to the Hon'ble Vice-President and Prime Minister alleging corruption in the ICCR during the period 1993—95.

(b) to (d) All these allegations of corruption including the alleged nexus between Balmer Lawrie & Co. and ICCR were investigated. These investigations were conducted by a high-powered Committee of two Vice-Presidents of the Governing Body of the ICCR, viz. an eminent intellectual and a senior MP. The allegations were also investigated by the Central Vigilance Commission. None of the allegations were found to have any substance and the Central Vigilance Commission advised closure of the cases. Further, the accounts of the Council for the period 1993—95 had been audited by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India and no instance of corruption was brought out in the audit reports. Following these allegations of corruption by some Hon'ble MPs in 1997. and press reports containing similar allegations, a fresh audit was conducted in 1997-98 for the period in question. Again no instance of corruption was brought to the notice of the Council by the Audit Party.

Enquiry into ICCR affairs

4035. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of news-items captioned "culture of corruption". 'Scandalous splurge by ICCR' "MPs demand probe into ICCR Affairs" and "Indian Council for Cultural Regret" which appeared in the Pioneer on the 15th, 16th. 17th and 26th July. 1997

(b) whether my CBI ot Vigilance enquiry has been ordered on the basis of these media reports;

(c) if so, what is the outcome of the enquiry and what action Govemment have taken against those conupt official; and

(d) if not, what prevented Govemment from doing so?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) and (c) All the allegations of corruption contained in these news items were investigated. These investigations were conducted by a high-powoed committee of two Vice-Presidents of the Governing Body of the ICCR, viz. an eminent intellectual and a senior MP. The allegations were also investigated by the Central Vigilance Commission. None of the allegations were found to have any substance and the Central Vigilance Commission advised closure of the cases. Further, the accounts of the Council for the period 1993—95 had been audited by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India and no instance of corruption was brought out in the audit reports. Following these allegations of corruption which had appeared in sections of the Press, a fresh audit was conducted in 1997-98 for the period in question. Again no instance of cormption was brought to the notice of the Council by the Audit Party.

(d) Does not arise.

Economic ties with Maldives

4036. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will *the* PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govemment have a proposal to establish better economic ties with Maldives;

(b) whether the President of Maldives who visited India recentiy has discussed the need to establish better economic cooperation between both the countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE); (a) to (c) Govemment pay close attention to the development of condial and cooperative links

with the Maldives, a friendly neighbouring country. Government have assisted the Govemment of Maldives under its bilateral technical assistance programme. Such cooperation hat included the construction of a general hospital as well as of a technical institute in the Maldives. Government also assists the Maldives in its efforts at human resource development in a variety of fields including health, education and technical training. During the visit of the President of Maldives to India from *j*une 30-July I, 1998. the growth of bilateral economic cooperation was among the subjects reviewed

Wasteful expenditurs in Indian Minsiens

4097. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: *Will th*e PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govemment are sware that wasteful expenditure in various Indian diplomatic missions abroad are increasing day by day.

, (b) if so, whether Government have chalked out any plan to check wasteful expenditure in such Indian missions and

(c) if so the derails thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) to (c) Utmost altention is given to avoiding any excessive *ot wasteful* expenditure in Indian diplomatic Missions abroad. Detiled and specific instructions have been iSMied to our Embassies abroad to identify aicaf where strick contral could effectively curtail expenditure without compromising efficiency in tbe walking of the Missins Posts The Proposals and expenditure flgures received wrriiwdtmn Missions ate carefully examined and in critical areas where there remains a isndency for the expenditure to increas have been identifled and the expenditure fugures recpect thersto are regularly moaMoaad and cerrective msasures taken from time to tiae. Tbe expeanditure is subjected to post sudit by the Office of the Chief of Aceount and also subject to statetery sudit by the Comptroller and Aoditer General of India

These messures have been generally sucessfull in achisving the *objectives* and effective in contrctting the expenditure. This is, however, an engning extreisa**.**

प्रधान मंत्री की अमरीकी राष्ट्रपति और पाकिस्तान के प्रधान मंत्री के साथ बातचीत

4038. **श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे**: क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि**:**

(क) प्रधान मंत्री द्वारा हाल ही में अमरीकी राष्ट्रपति और पाकिस्तान के प्रधान मंत्री के साथ सरकारी तौर पर हुई बातचीत के विशेष परिणाम क्या रहे,

(ख) उक्त बातचीत के दौरान कौन-कौन से द्विपश्क्षीय मुद्दों पर बातचीत की गई थी और क्या उन्होंने कश्मीर पर भारत के रूख के बारे में दोनों राष्ट्राध्क्षों को अवगत कराया,

(ग) कश्मीर पर इन राष्ट्राध्क्षों पर इन राष्ट्राध्यक्षों की क्या प्रतिक्रिया रही है, और

(घ) किन-किन क्षेत्रों में द्विपक्षीय मसझौतों पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए हैं?

विदेश मंत्रलाय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती वसुन्धरा राजे)**:** (क) प्रधान मंत्री ने हाल ही में अमरीका के राष्ट्रपति अथवा पाकिस्तान के प्रधान मंत्री से कोई सरकारी बातचीत नहीं की है।

(ख) से (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठते।

Issue of Multi-Purpose Cards to Indians Abroad

4039. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A PARMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether identity and multi-purpose cards are proposed to be issued to Indians abroad; if so, the benefits that would accrue to the holders of the card and

(b) the condition of e;ogonility for issue of such cards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) and (b) The informatons is being collected and will the placed on the Table of the House.

Detaineas at Myasrner laft

4040 SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pteaied to state:

(a) whether (i) S. Gandhi Singh (ii) TH. Mani Singh, (Hi) K.H Mani Singh, (iv) Yang Kheyea Isite dstainees at the Myanmer Jail arrested 24.4.1995 by the Myanmar police at the boniler gate No. 2. namphatlon are still ative;